

Abstract 425

TITLE: Outcomes of a Street-Based Outreach HIV/STD Prevention Project Targeting At-Risk African-American Women Ages 14-44

AUTHORS: Short, J (Sisters Together And Reaching [STAR], Baltimore, MD)

ISSUE: Since 1991, Sisters Together And Reaching (STAR), a Christian-based community-based HIV service provider, has been offering both HIV prevention services and HIV support services for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Outcomes of STAR's Project NIA, a CDC 704-grantee, will be shared showing the effective street-outreach interventions used to reach at-risk African American women in an urban environment with HIV/STD risk-reduction information and methods for applying this information in their daily lives.

SETTING: Baltimore City, MD, in eight high HIV incidence communities.

PROJECT: As a CDC 704-grantee since 1997, STAR Project's NIA has documentation of street-based outreach interventions conducted as part of a mobile health unit offering HIV/STD testing with at-risk African American women in high HIV incidence areas in Baltimore City. Further, the outcomes of a client-centered behavioral change model used with over 400 at-risk African-American women and men will also be shared.

RESULTS: Year 02 project outcomes detailing 2000 documented outreach encounters, over 600 risk self-assessments, over 2000 service referrals, and over 400 documented agreements of recruitment/retention efforts representing the client-centered behavioral change model will be shared.

LESSONS LEARNED: STAR's experience as an established CBO with a track record in reaching "hard-to-reach" women is germane to the success of Project NIA in providing street-based outreach. Other markers for success are 1) the staff of Project NIA reflects the populations served, and 2) the innovation of a client-centered behavior change model. Unanticipated outcomes are: 1) due to an overwhelming response to the client-center behavior model (projected to recruit 200 persons and to-date-recruited 446), we found that an increased amount of follow-up is required to assist recruits to complete the model's agreement, as well as keep updated success and impediments in clients' access to service referrals.

PRESENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Joanna Short, STAR

Address: 1429 McCulloh Street
Baltimore, MD 21217

Telephone: (410) 383-1903

Fax: (410) 383-7856

E-mail: Joanna40@aol.com